

The invention provides a surface treating appliance comprising a main body and a support assembly which is mounted to the main body and arranged to roll with respect to the main body for allowing the appliance to be rolled along a surface, the support assembly housing at least one component of the appliance.

The provision of a rolling support assembly aids manoeuvrability of the appliance and positioning a component of the appliance in the support assembly makes efficient use of the space within the support assembly. It can also increase the stability of the appliance.

The component may be a motor for driving a surface agitating device or means for acting on a fluid flow, in which case fluid inlets and outlets may be provided in the support assembly. The means for acting on the fluid flow can be a suction generating means, such as a motor driven impeller, a filter or some form of separating apparatus.

Preferably the component is housed within the support assembly such that the centre of mass of the component is aligned with the centre of the support assembly as this further aids manoeuvrability. Positioning the motor within the support keeps the centre of mass of the overall appliance close to the floor surface.

Preferably the features of providing support for the rotatable support assembly and of ducting air into and/or out of the assembly are combined by providing a support which has a hollow interior channel.

The term "surface treating appliance" is intended to have a broad meaning, and includes a wide range of machines having a head for travelling over a surface to clean or treat the surface in some manner. It includes, *inter alia*, machines which apply suction to the surface so as to draw material from it, such as vacuum cleaners (dry, wet and wet/dry), as well as machines which apply material to the surface, such as polishing/waxing machines, pressure washing machines, ground marking machines and shampooing machines. It also includes lawn mowers and other cutting machines.

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Claims

1. A surface treating appliance comprising a main body and a support assembly which is mounted to the main body and arranged to roll with respect to the main body for allowing the appliance to be rolled along a surface, the support assembly housing at least one component of the appliance.
2. An appliance according to claim 1 wherein the component is mounted within the support assembly such that a rolling surface of the support assembly rotates around the component.
3. An appliance according to claim 2 further comprising a shell, mounted within the support assembly, for supporting the component, and wherein the rolling surface is arranged to rotate around the shell.
4. An appliance according to claim 1 wherein the component is mounted within the support assembly such that it rotates with the support assembly during rolling movement of the support assembly.
5. An appliance according to any preceding claim wherein the support assembly comprises a fluid inlet for receiving fluid flow and a fluid outlet for exhausting fluid, and the component comprises means for acting on the fluid flow received through the inlet.
6. An appliance according to claim 5 wherein the fluid inlet is substantially coaxial with the axis of rotation of the support assembly.
7. An appliance according to any claim 5 or 6 wherein the fluid inlet comprises an inlet duct arranged to provide support between the main body and the support assembly.